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A

SUMMARY

OF THE

Case of the Sufferers by fire at

MONTREAL:

WITH THE

MOTIVES

for a Subscription for their relief.

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A

SUMMARY

of the Caſe of the Sufferers by fire at

MONTREAL.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed, at a meeting of the ſubſcribers for the relief of the ſufferers at Montreal, for the management of the ſubſcription, on which a beginning is made. This committee is compoſed of twenty-two perſons, chiefly men of character in the commercial world, a merchant of large fortune, and equal probity and humanity, being treaſurer. (a)

(a) JOHN THORNTON, *Eſq*; Treaſurer.

Sir Samuel Fludyer, Bart.
William Burke, Eſq;
John Pownall, Eſq;
Pere: Cuſt, Eſq;
Robert Allen, Eſq;
Samuel Smith, Eſq;
John Marlar, Eſq;
Robert Macky, Eſq;
William Neate, Eſq;
Fowler Walker, Eſq;
Richard Neave, Eſq;
Edward Paine, Eſq;
Andrew Deviſme, Eſq;
Mr. Daniel Vialars.
Mr. Iſidore Lynch.
Mr. John Strettell.
Mr. Robert Hunter.
Mr. Francis Rybot.
Mr. Robert Grant.
Mr. Gregory Olive.
Mr. Benjamin Price.
Jonas Hanway, Eſq;

EDWARD GREEN, Secretary.

It is obſervable, that when any remarkable great fire happens, it is ſeldom known or traced out by what accident it was occaſioned. This creates a diffidence, the conſequences of which are generally injurious to the public, as not knowing how to guard againſt the like evil for the future; and to the ſufferers, it being unknown who was in fault.

Theſe gentlemen candidly inform the public in the moſt circumſtantial manner, concerning the tremendous fire which happened in May laſt at *Montreal*; and they invite us in the moſt perſuaſive terms, on the ſtrongeſt reaſoning, founded on facts, that others may follow their example, by contributing each as he thinks proper towards the relief of the ſufferers; and they tell us what bankers (b) receive ſubſcriptions for this purpoſe.

The

(b) SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in by the following Bankers:

Sir Charles Aſgill, Nightingale, and Wickenden,
Meſſrs. Cliffe, Walpole, and Clarke,
Meſſrs. Roffey, Neale, James, and Fordyce,
Meſſrs. Henton, Brown, and Son,
Meſſrs. Bland, and Barnet,
Meſſrs. Batſon, Stephenſon, and Hoggart,
Meſſrs. Boldero, Carter, Buruſton, and Smith,
Meſſrs. Braſſey, Lee, and Ayton,
Meſſrs. George and William Gines,
} *Lombard-ſtreet.*

Meſſrs. Fuller and Cope,
Meſſrs. Vere, Glyn, and Halifax, } *Birchin-lane.*

Sir George Amyand, Staples, and Mercer, — — *Cornhill.*
Sir George Colebrooke, and Co. — — *Threadneedle-ſtreet.*
Meſſrs. Henry, Richard, and Richard Hoare, — *Fleet ſtreet.*

Sir

The moſt exact enquiry into this matter being made, it appears that the misfortune happened by a black ſervant carrying aſhes, intended for the making of ſope, into the garret of Mr. *Levingſton*, an Engliſh ſubject, and a perſon of reputation, living in St. Francis ſtreet in the city of Montreal.

The rooms of the houſes in that city are floored with clay, on which they lay flat ſtones, with a view to prevent accidents by fire. The roof of this houſe being very dry after much hot weather, and the wind blowing very hard, it is ſuppoſed, ſome coal, yet unextinguiſhed, was lighted up, and blown to the roof, the flames burſting forth at the roof of the ſame Levingſton's houſe. The adjacent houſes being covered either with *ſhingles*, made of white cedar, in the manner of tiles, or with boards, according to the cuſtom of the country; the flame was communicated with ſuch impetuous violence, that in three hours 108 houſes were deſtroyed, and though it happened in the day-time, ſome perſons were burnt. Theſe houſes contained 215 families, (c) chiefly *Canadians*;

Sir Francis Goſling, Goſling, and Clive, — — *Fleet-ſtreet.*
Meſſrs. Robert Child, and Co. — — — *Temple-bar.*
Sir Joſeph Hankey, and Partners — — *Fenchurch-ſtreet.*
Meſſrs. James and Thomas Coutts, — — — *Strand.*
Meſſrs. Andrew Drummond, and Co. — — *Charing-croſs.*
Meſſrs. Backwell, Hart, Darell, and Croft, — *Pall mall.*

(c) The city of Montreal contains 7000 inhabitants; the adjacent country on the banks of the river being delightfully pleaſant, thoſe who have acquired any property, generally come here to live.

the major part of whom, from being in comfortable circumſtances, were thus ſuddenly deprived of every thing they poſſeſſed, the cloaths on their backs excepted.

This committee is in poſſeſſion of an authentic certificate, atteſted by Gen. Murray, as governor of the province of Quebec, in which Montreal is ſituated. The moſt regular eſtimates were made by carpenters and maſons, of the value of the buildings; and depoſitions on oath were taken of the ſufferers, by commiſſioners appointed expreſsly for the purpoſe, of the particulars of their loſs; by which it appears, that the amount is 87,580*l.* 8 *s.* 10 *d.* ſterling, of which no part was, or could be inſured. All which is corroborated by the moſt indubitable teſtimony of living witneſſes now in London.

Though it is preſumed, that ſome of the ſufferers are above the acceptance of charity, it is very certain, that great numbers of them are reduced to the moſt calamitous condition. It cannot therefore with any propriety be objected, by any one, otherwiſe inclined to contribute, that nothing worthy of attention *can* be collected by a private ſubſcription; on the contrary, it is apparent, that every mite will be acceptable.

Thus circumſtanced, the ſufferers think themſelves privileged, as it were by a permiſſion from heaven, to beg relief: the fact is, they implore our aſſiſtance, and of whom can they aſk it with propriety, if not of us?

Whether we conſider theſe *Canadians* as *ſtrangers*, who put themſelves under our protection, when they might have

have gone to *Old France*, and left a country, which we naturally desire to see peopled; or whether we regard them as *fellow-subjects*, with whom we may carry on a trade of great importance; it seems right, fit, and proper, that we should enable those to rise again, who are fallen; and, by a *well-timed encouragement of industry*, perform a duty of the highest importance, the charge of which will be repaid four-fold into the breast of our common parent.

If we consider these *Canadians* as fellow-subjects, whose allegiance to the crown of these realms we would wish to preserve inviolate; and to secure them by the cords of love and union. Or if we make an estimate of their intrinsic worth, as a comely, laborious, intrepid, obedient people; in every view they are represented as demanding a peculiar attention from us on this occasion.

Can we embrace a more favourable opportunity of giving a substantial proof, not *to them* only, but also to our *American fellow-subjects* in general, that we have no false ambition. It would be absurd to suppose, that we do not mean to erect trophies of strength and opulency; but what firmer basis can these be built upon, than mutual interest, and mutual affection? And if these do not prove an impregnable bulwark of liberty to both countries, where shall we seek for any other?

Our fellow-subjects will see by our conduct as individuals, as well as by our rule of government, that

this nation is communicative of every bleſſing, and conſequently entitled to be beloved for the exerciſe of moderation, equanimity, and the ſocial virtues, as well as for ſkill and bravery in arms.

There cannot be a principle more intelligible, than that the putting every ſubject, as far as is practicable, in a condition of getting his own bread, and providing for his family in his own way, is the true ſource of national riches. On this principle depends the ſecurity of a vaſt pecuniary property: and conſequently it is our trueſt intereſt, to extend our regards to every ſubject in every region of the Britiſh empire, who is really in want, and can with propriety aſk for relief; or who by commerce can afford us the means of acquiring wealth; but moſt of all to ſuch fellow-ſubjects as the *Canadians*, under ſo grievous a misfortune.

As to the *peculiar* circumſtances of theſe brave people, who now implore our aſſiſtance, they had been for ſeveral years diſtreſſed, not only with their war with us, but alſo by militating with the ſavage Indians. They had ſuffered the want of proviſions, almoſt to famine; their trade was interrupted; the uſe of their paper money was ſuſpended; and hardly were the widows tears dried up, when this ſad misfortune by fire ſuddenly fell upon them.

If we examine the matter ſeriouſly, as every cauſe of humanity ought to be examined, we ſhall find motives enough derived from benevolence and good policy, as well

well as Chriſtian charity, to follow the example of thoſe who have begun the ſubſcription. (d)

It

(d) Feb. 1766.

DONATIONS in behalf of the ſufferers by fire at Montreal.

	£.	s.	d.
Iſaac Adamſon, Eſq; — — —	5	5	0
A. — — — —	1	1	0
R. A. — — — —	5	5	0
Robert Allen, Eſq; — — —	10	10	0
Mr. Latham Arnold — —	5	5	0
Mrs. Sarah Aynworth — — —	1	1	0
Mr. Adderley — — —	1	1	0
Henry Archer, Eſq; — —	5	5	0
E. A. and A. B. — — —	0	10	6
Meſſrs. Beckman and Company — —	0	10	6
Meſſrs. Bland and Barnett — —	10	10	0
William Burke, Eſq; — — —	10	10	0
M. B. — — —	15	0	0
M. B. — — — —	5	5	0
J. B. — — —	1	1	0
The Right Hon. Secretary Conway — —	50	0	0
Meſſrs Clay and Augutter — —	10	10	0
John Carter, Eſq; — — —	2	2	0
C. C. — — — —	2	2	0
Mrs. Margaret Chitty — — —	10	10	0
M. C. — — —	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Clark — — —	5	5	0
Edward Coke, Eſq; *Canterbury* —	30	0	0
Solomon da Coſta, Eſq; — —	20	0	0
Meſſrs. Coleman and Lucas — —	10	10	0
C. — — —	2	2	0
Charles Crokat, Eſq; — —	20	0	0
Pere : Cuſt, Eſq; — —	10	10	0
C. D. — — —	50	0	0

303. 12. 0

John

It ought to be remembered, that these people were by no means in fault on this occasion, unless it be a crime

John Darker, Esq; — — —	2	2	0
P. D. — — —	0	5	3
John Dewes, Esq; — — —	1	1	0
J. D. — — —	1	1	6
A. D. — — —	20	0	0
Henry Ellis, Esq; — — —	5	5	0
Doctor Fothergill — —	5	5	0
J. F. — — — —	5	5	0
Sir Samuel and Sir Thomas Fludyer —	25	0	0
Mrs. Sarah Gibbins — — —	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Green — —	5	5	0
Messrs. Grant and Co. — — —	10	10	0
Lowe Griffin, Esq; — —	10	10	0
Mr. John Goode, *of Kensington* — —	1	1	0
Lady Elizabeth Germain, a lottery-ticket, No. 39,896, Blank, produced — —	5	5	0
Mr. William Higginson — —	1	1	0
Messrs. Humphrys and Harris — —	5	5	0
Mr. Robert Hunter — —	10	10	0
Mr. Leonard Hammond — —	1	1	0
Jonas Hanway, Esq; — —	5	5	0
Thomas Hanway, Esq; — —	5	5	0
G. H. — — —	1	1	0
Mr. John Irish — — —	1	1	0
Mr. John Jones, *of Hackney* — —	2	2	0
Mrs. Deborah Jennings — — —	1	1	0
By the Rev. Mr. Jacob Jefferson —	2	2	0
A Lady — — —	4	4	0
L. M. B — — —	0	10	6
Mr. Lowe, *of St. Mary le Bone* — —	7	9	0
Mr. Thomas Lever — —	5	5	0

Mr.

crime to be unacquainted with the uſe of thoſe means, ſo well known in Europe, to prevent accidents of this kind,

Mr. Iſidore Lynch — — —	10	0	0
Mr. James Mather — — —	3	3	0
Mr. Moore — — — —	1	1	0
E. M — — —	1	0	0
John Marlar, Eſq; — — —	10	0	0
Robert Macky, Eſq; — —	10	0	0
Francis Maſeres, Eſq; — —	5	5	0
Meſſrs. Maudit, Wright, and Co. —	10	10	0
T. N. — — — —	1	1	0
H. N. — — —	0	10	6
R. Nettleton, Eſq; — — —	1	1	0
James Norman, Eſq; — —	20	0	0
William Neate, Eſq; — —	21	0	0
Richard Neave, Eſq; — —	10	10	0
Mr. Edward Ommanney — —	0	10	6
Z. O. — — — —	1	1	0
Overplus of the fire-collection for Rotherhithe	51	7	2
Mrs. Okenden — — —	0	2	6
W. P. — — — —	2	2	0
W. P. — — —	2	2	0
Mr. William Pocock — — —	5	5	0
Meſſrs. Benjamin Price, and Son —	10	10	0
Edward Paine, Eſq; — — —	10	10	0
A. P. — — — —	1	1	0
John Pownall, Eſq; — — —	5	5	0
Meſſrs. Roſſey, Neale, James, and Fordyce	21	0	0
Mr. Francis Rybot — —	21	0	0
Samuel Rickards, Eſq; — —	10	10	0
Mr. John Rogers — — —	1	1	0
Samuel Smith, Eſq; — —	5	5	0
S. — — — —	1	7	0

Mr.

kind, or to remedy them when they happen. The truth is, the *French* in Europe are far behind us in the know-

Mr. John Strettell	21	0	0
Sir William Stephenſon	10	10	0
W. S.	0	10	6
Mrs. Mary Sneyd	5	5	0
Mr. Spilier	1	1	0
W. S. by Meſſrs. Hoares	6	0	0
S. S. S.	5	5	0
Mr. Suckland	2	2	0
Sundry Perſons, by the hands of Mr. Strettell	157	10	0
Mr. S. Towers	1	1	0
John Thornton, Eſq;	50	0	0
The Hon. Dr. George Talbot	5	5	0
R. T.	5	5	0
A perſon unknown, by Mr. Blackman	5	5	0
A perſon unknown	0	5	3
Ditto	0	10	6
A gentleman unknown	0	10	6
A perſon unknown	0	10	6
A perſon unknown	0	2	6
A perſon unknown	0	2	2
A perſon unknown	0	5	3
A perſon unknown, by Mr. George Box	3	3	0
A perſon unknown	0	10	6
A. B. a lady unknown	3	3	0
A gentleman unknown, by Mr. Lane	5	5	0
J. V.	50	0	0
Mr. Daniel Vialars	21	0	0
Fowler Walker, Eſq;	5	5	0
Sweet Wood, Eſq;	10	10	0
Meſſrs. Watſon and Olive	10	10	0
J. W.	5	5	0
A. W.	2	2	0

knowledge and practice of thoſe mechanic arts, which contribute ſo much to the eaſe, ſafety, and convenience of life; and we could not expect to find ſuch in a conquered colony lately belonging to them.

By the precautions now taking, in regard to the uſe of fire-engines, the deſign of making reſervoirs of water, and new methods of covering their houſes, it is to be hoped, the like misfortune will not happen again.

It muſt be preſumed, that tyles of a certain thickneſs, and properly glazed, will ſtand the penetrating force of melted ſnow, and the pinching ſeverity of froſt in that country, as well as they do in Ruſſia, where the winters are yet more intenſely cold. (e) At the ſame time it muſt be acknowledged, that thin iron plates, painted or tinned over, will anſwer the purpoſe yet more effectually,

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Mr. John Whiſton	5	5	0
Robert Ward, Eſq;	5	0	0
S. W.	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Young	2	2	0
X. Y. Z.	10	10	0
A. Z.	5	5	0
Z.	2	2	0

(e) It may be obſerved, that beſides the tyles of their own making, the Ruſſians uſe pantyles well glazed, which are imported from foreign countries: as ſhips would otherwiſe come in ballaſt, the freight is not heavy. Defects are ſometimes found in theſe tyles; the mortar muſt be well digeſted, or it is apt to freeze, and break out.

tually, in regard to the ſnow and froſt. (f) Let them learn from this misfortune, which will bear hard on them, whatever they may receive from us, that the moſt durable covering, and the ſafeſt from fire, will, in the iſſue, prove the cheapeſt manner of building. It will be an object of great moment to introduce the improvements propoſed.

But whilſt we give them good advice like friends, let us not act as if we were not their friends, or had no particular regard for them in our capacity as fellow-ſubjects. As they are conſtrained to aſk, let us ſhew them ſuch a mark of our favour, as ſhall be of real ſervice. This is the way to be beloved and honoured as their ſincere friends and benefactors. And we may with the utmoſt reaſon hope, that we ſhall ſecure the hearts of theſe *Canadians* for many generations to come.

In the mean while, let us ſeriouſly reflect, that no ſyſtem of morals, no inſtitute of political precepts, can inſtruct us ſo forcibly as the *law of Chriſt*, in our duty as *citizens* and *ſubjects*. Enlightened as we are, yet diſ-

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(f) Theſe plates are made of an *archeen*, or 28 inches, ſquare, nearly as thick as a new milled ſhilling, and ſold for 2 ½ rubles a pood, or 11 s. for 36 lb. Engliſh. They paint them on both ſides: but thoſe which are tinned are the moſt durable and effectual preſervative. They ſecure them, by turning one into the other at the edges for near 1 ½ inch. The inconveniency of noiſe from rain, is in a great meaſure removed by a proper preſſure on the inſide, in three or four parts, which divides and breaks the ſound.

tracted

tracted by such a variety of inclinations, no other law can hold us in the bonds of peace and union, and restrain us from the excess of that self-love, which is so apt to plunge us into difficulties.

If *Christian* charity, joined to the distribution of the bounties of heaven, by all the means that providence has put into our hands, be the surest criterion by which to judge of our own hearts, so in our capacity as *subjects*, to embrace occasions as they rise, and succor each other when distressed, is the most substantial virtue, and the soundest policy. It is surely the most demonstrative proof of the reality of our good disposition to the community, and of our knowledge of the happiness of our own situation. And in proportion to our gratitude we may hope for the continuance of the blessings we now enjoy at the hands of God, or unhappily be constrained to renounce such hopes, as superior to the portion of virtue we possess.

We are now invited to give an active demonstrative proof to these *Canadians*, that the essence of *Liberty* consists in a tender regard to the support of each other. And as our civil and religious rights are originally founded in reason, or a true discernment of what is just and fit to be done, *voluntarily*, and upon the principles of obedience to divine laws, and the *good of society*; we may conclude, that by the firmness and valor arising from thence we have acquired, and by their means we maintain, a sovereignty in so many different parts of the earth with dignity and

reputation. At the ſame time it muſt be obvious, that avarice, diſcord, or falſe ambition, may deprive us of the advantages which Providence hath put into our hands.

This is the ſubſtance of a ſmall pamphlet; and upon the whole, it ſeems to be an object ſo very forcibly recommended to individuals, both from facts, as well as reaſoning, and ſo very proper in its own nature, that it will be much for our honor it ſhould ſucceed.

IN relation to the ſafe methods of covering houſes to prevent the communication of fire, ſome perſons, now bound for Canada, intend to try if ſlate will ſtand the froſt. Iron-plate coverings are certainly the beſt. As to turning the edges of the plates one within another, this method is practiſed in Sweden, as well as Ruſſia, but it is ſubject to ſome inconveniences, as being apt to break the edges. There is another method leſs coſtly as to the labor, and which will probably anſwer much better, viz. to cover the boards which compoſe the top of the houſe with two layers of brown paper, dipt in hot tar; then lay on two iron plates, every other one, ſo that the third may over-lap about an inch on each of the two: brown paper dipt in tar muſt be under the third, as well as the two firſt plates, and extended ſo far as to come under the faſtenings of the plates, to con-

ſolidate

ſolidate them. Theſe plates ſhould be previouſly punched with a proper ſteel puncher, and fitted to each other. The plates being cut of equal lengths, the holes may be made to anſwer to each other. Faſten the work with *copper* nails, which will not ruſt like iron. A puncher may be uſed to prepare the way through the paper, and the gimblet to follow, otherwiſe the copper nails may be eaſily reſiſted. The plates being painted, or tinned, and faſtened as above, will ſtand all weather, and alſo reſiſt wind better than in the method of turning the edges.

P. S. March 20, 1766. The *committee* having thought it moſt adviſeable to ſuſpend the application for the relief of the Canadian poor ſufferers, for ſome weeks paſt, have now the pleaſure to inform the public, that Mr. Thornton and Mr. Hanway having been deputed to wait on the King, with this caſe, his Majeſty received them moſt graciouſly, and with his uſual clemency and benignity, was pleaſed to give

500*l.*

500*l.* towards the relief of thoſe who are in real diſtreſs. 500 - 0 - 0

It is hoped, when our fellow ſubjects are fully informed of the real ſtate of this caſe, they will think it a very proper object for the exerciſe of their humanity as *men*; their charity as *chriſtians*; and their policy as *members of the community*.

In addition to the liſt,

The R. H. Marquis of Rockingham has given - -	100	0	0
The R. H. Earl of Dartmouth	50	0	0
T. Aſkell - - - - - -	0	10	6
Rev. Mr. Birch - - -	1	1	0
P. P. - - - - - - -	1	1	0
T. S. - - - - - -	0	5	3
C. G. - - - - - - -	1	1	0
Dr. Richard Ruſſell - - -	2	2	0
A. B. - - - - - -	20	0	0
George Anfrere, Eſq; - -	5	5	0

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